

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Minasi, with claims 4, 13 and 17 being rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minasi in view of Macedo, for the reasons of record.

In response, independent claims 1, 9, 11 and 15 have been amended to more particularly and precisely define the instant invention, and it is respectfully submitted that these claims, and the remaining claims depending therefrom, are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references for the reasons detailed below.

In Minasi, the receive branch includes a first network with an output node (the node connected to the receiver) which is connected to two passive components (a capacitor and a diode) connected in parallel. In the present invention, on the contrary, the output node of the network employs only a single active component, namely transistor 13. In this manner, the present invention provides an actively controlled and relatively instantaneous switching to the short circuit state, thus providing maximum protection. In the cited prior-art circuit, on the contrary, the use of a passive component in parallel with a capacitor results in a relatively slower and less effective protection mechanism. Unlike an active switching component as used in the instant invention, the diode of

the prior art will not even start to switch until the threshold voltage of the diode is reached, thus resulting in a slower and less effective switching transition.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims, as herein amended, are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied reference. Accordingly, allowance of the currently-pending claims is now respectfully submitted to be justified, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

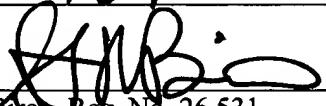
By 
Steven R. Biren, Reg. No. 26,531
Attorney
(914) 333-9630

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By 
Steven R. Biren, Reg. No. 26,531